

EXHIBIT 18  
DATE 3/15/2011  
SB 185

March 13, 2009

Representative Janna Taylor  
House District 11  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, Montana

Re: Death Penalty

Dear Janna,

Thankyou for apprising me of your letter from Marietta Jaeger Lane. As you well know I favor the death penalty that has been carefully crafted by caring intelligent people who put it in place to protect future innocent unsuspecting people of our state from criminal predators who premeditate, plan, stock, kidnap, torture, rape and beat to death a victim in their murderous desire to destroy another human being. This law is not for the purpose of satisfying anyone's revenge or for justice for this type of crime. It is strictly to forewarn future murderers who fit into the above mentioned category. It is not for a crime of passion or rage by any insane person. Those crimes have other statutes to govern their sentences. The death penalty law is strictly for a select few heinous crimes. Taking another life through law enforcement is not to be any type of satisfaction. It is for those who make the laws to offer future protection for the public. There is no guarantee of public protection but it is a warning by keeping this death penalty clause in the statute that the law will follow through in the hopes that it will deter this type of future crimes. It is all we have in hopes that it will work. Life sentences with no hope of parole will not be a deterrent. Duncan Peder McKenzie had 20 years of appeals and with the extreme evidence it was clear to everyone that his crime against society was too great to excuse. We, the people of the State of Montana, need this protection under the law. I Sincerely hope that you and all the Legislators of our state will see the merit in the former legislative body who formulated this prudent law.

As far as expense is concerned, we have spent far more money on things that do not bring a sense of security and safety to our people. This is needed.

I served in the Montana Senate for three terms 1984-1996 and when I stepped down and chose not to run again, I entered into a children's ministry which I am still helping in for the reason that I believe we need more children and youth work as a deterrent to crime and I will continue to pledge myself to this in order to continue to do my part to bring safe communities. I pray that you will do your part. Thank you all for serving in your elected seats and I wish you well. May God be with you as you deliberate your many issues brought before you.

Sincerely,

*Ethel M. Harding*  
Ethel M. Harding  
Concerned Citizen and Former  
Montana State Senator  
33592 Rocky Point Road, Polson, Mt..

*Mr. Taylor*